

## CLAIMS

1. A method for controlling discontinuous transmissions, comprising  
the steps of:
  - determining a voice activity level in a digitized audio signal;
  - generating a control signal based on the level of voice activity detected;
  - generating active vocoder frames at a predetermined rate in a transmitterif said control signal indicates a first level of speech activity;
  - generating inactive vocoder frames if said control signal indicates asecond level of speech activity; and
  - generating transition frames if said control signal indicates a transitionfrom said first level to said second level, said transition frames comprising background noise information.
2. A method for controlling discontinuous transmissions, comprising  
the steps of:
  - generating data frames at a receiver;
  - storing said data frames in a queue;
  - providing at least one of said data frames from said queue to adecryption module if available in said queue;
  - providing a state vector to said decryption module, said state vectorincremented at a predetermined rate;
  - generating a codebook from said decryption module, using at least saidstate vector, said codebook for decrypting at least one of said data frames; and
  - disabling said state vector when said queue is in an underflow condition.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of disabling said state  
vector comprises the steps of:
  - determining that none of said data frames are available for decryption insaid queue;
  - disabling said state vector;
  - determining that at least one of said data frames is available fordecryption in said queue;
  - enabling said state vector; andincrementing said state vector by a value of one.
4. A discontinuous transmission controller, comprising:

- 2 a vocoder for generating active vocoder frames from said digitized audio  
signal at a predetermined output rate if speech is present, for generating  
4 inactive vocoder frames during periods of speech inactivity, and for generating  
transition frames during transitions from speech activity to speech inactivity,  
6 said transition frames comprising background noise information.

5. The receiver of claim 4 wherein said state vector is enabled when  
2 at least one data frame becomes available for encryption in said queue.

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